

AT HOME

PET-FRIENDLY INTERIORS



Yellow rug, \$349, from Catwalk Rugs



Cat bed, \$79, from Lorraine Lea

Kyjen Hide a Squirrel Junior dog toy, \$24.95 from Villa Mondo



There's no doubt about it, if you have a cat or a dog, they're considered a member of the household. With so many four-legged family members around, pet-friendly tips for the home can be useful. Katrina Thomson from pet product retailer IdPet says any of today's pet accessories tick multiple boxes.

FORM & LOOKS

"Pet products for the home can be functional as well as stylish," Katrina says. She says pet items are increasingly being designed with interior decor in mind.

"A more modern home may go for neutral tones to blend with the interior, or a pet owner with a family may be more interested in bright colours to fit in with the lively environment," she says.

THEIR OWN SPACE

Although pets often have the run of the house, there can be distinct benefits to creating a special area just

for them. "Give them their own bowl, bed and toys so it can be their safe place when they need a rest," Katrina says. One benefit of this is it can help teach children to respect an animal's boundaries, for example don't play with Fido when he's on his bed.

Stacey Harris from pet supplies retailer PETstock agrees that designating places for pets can be a great way to maintain a happy home.

"This can sometimes take some training and the right kind of products, depending on your pet's needs," she says. "For instance, you may require puppy gates to teach your pup which areas of the house they are and are not allowed to venture into."

MINIMISE DAMAGE

When problems or bad habits strike, there's often a simple solution. For instance, couch covers can help if a cat keeps scratching the couch – or, says Stacey, invest in a scratching post. A pet door is another solution. These days they can be as sophisticated as you choose – some

YOU MAY REQUIRE PUPPY GATES

STOCKISTS

Cabin Co Interiors \ cabinco.com.au Catwalk Rugs \ catwalkrugs.com.au
Cotton On \ cottonon.com.au Davis & Waddell \ 9474 1300
Doog \ doog.com.au IdPet \ idpet.com.au Lorraine Lea \ lorrainelea.com
Think Outside \ www.thinkoutside.biz Villa Mondo \ 1300 555 150

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come with microchips your pet can wear on its collar, meaning it is the only one that can use the door.

PLAY TIME IS IMPORTANT

"An issue that pet parents face is that their buddy can sometimes become destructive if they become bored," Stacey says. "A great way to keep them amused is to offer toys that engage their minds and keep them active."

CONSIDER FURNISHINGS

Toby Go from Catwalk Rugs says floor protection is important in a pet-friendly environment. "If someone wanted to go the rug route for appearances, then an indoor/outdoor rug would be the best choice," he says.

Catwalk Rugs recently supplied a cat cafe with these rugs and they are standing up well in the high-traffic, high-use environment. "The short pile means it's difficult for animals to pick at them," he says. ●

ANNA KOSMANOVSKI
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In The Dog House kennel,
\$892, from Think Outside



◀◀ **Puppacino personalised pet toy,** from \$16.95, from IdPet



Dog bed, \$89, from Lorraine Lea



Feeding placemat, \$6.99; **pet bowls** \$14.99 small, \$19.99 large; **treat canisters,** \$26.99 small, \$39.99 large, from Davis & Waddell



Floor seat in black/pink, small \$140 or large \$190, from Cabin Co Interiors

Mt Lilly dog bowl, \$14.95, from Cotton On

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